

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02603 142100Z

64

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

AID-05 PC-01 OPR-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 A-01 OC-01 CCO-00

SCCT-01 /083 W

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O 142010Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8872

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML,UV

SUBJECT: BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI & UPPER VOLTA

REF: BAMAKO 4314

1. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA REQUESTED ALL CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO COME TO PRESIDENCY AT 1800 DECEMBER 14.

2. LAMIZANA APOLOGIZED FOR DISTURBING OUR WEEK-END, BUT HE HAD

JUST LEARNED THAT COLONEL TRAORE OF MALI HAD CALLED SIMILAR MEETING IN BAMAKO AT 1600 TODAY, AND HAD GIVEN BAMAKO DIPLOMATIC CORPS A COMPLETELY DISTORED VERSION OF THIS MORNING'S EVENT.

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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 02603 142100Z

3. PRESIDENT THEN REVIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALI/UPPER

VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE, ALONG LINE OF PRESENTATION GIVEN TO US BY FOREIGN MINISTER ZERBO NOVEMBER 30( OUAGA 2483), AND SAID THAT, AFTER HIS FARAMANA MEETING WITH COLONEL TRAORE, HE HAD FELT CONFIDENT THAT NO MILITARY CONFRONTATION WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA OVER BORDER DISPUTE.

4. THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, A VOLTAN PATROL OF THIRTY NCO'S AND MEN WAS AMBUSHED BY ABOUT 100 MALIAN TROOPS 18 KILOMETERS INSIDE VOLTAN TERRITORY. WITH DETAILED MAPS IN FRONT OF HIM, LAMIZANA EXPLAINED THAT VOLTAN PATROLHAD JUST LEFT SMALL VILLAGE OF GASSIGALO AND WAS HEADING NORTH WHEN MALIANS FIRED ON THEIR VEHICLES, SETTING ONE OF THEM ON FIRE. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, BUT MALIANS TOOK ONE VOLTAN NCO AND ONE SOLDIER BACK WITH THEM TO MALIAN TERRITORY.

5. LAMIZANA SAID HE HAD NOT PALNNED TO INFORM US OF THIS INCIDENT UNTIL MONDAYBUT, AFTER HE LEARNED OF COLONEL TRAORE'S MEETING WITH DIPLOMATIC COPRS IN BAMAKO, HE FELT THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE THE VOLTAN VERSION OF THE INCIDENT. HE ADDED IT WAS STILL HIS INTENTION TO SETTLE THIS MATTER BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND HE WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY MILITARY OPERATION AT THIS TIME.

6. PRESIDENT WHO IS NORMALLY EXTREMELY CALM AND COMPOSED, WAS UNSUALLY AGITATED DURING HIS PRESENTATION AND WAS AT TIMES ALMOST INCOHERENT.

7. I BELEIVE THIS INCIDENT IS NOT AS SERIOUS AS THE INVOLVEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN EITHER BAMAKO AND OUAGADOUGOU WOULD TEND TO SUGGEST. LAMIZANA AND TRAORE ARE OLD FRIENDS AND ARE UNDOUBTEDLY SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE TO SETTLE THIS DESPUTE PEACEFULLY. MILITARY ELEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE DIFFERNET INTENTIONS.

8. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR MCGUIRE THAT WE SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS DISPUTE.  
GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI & UPPER VOLTA  
**TAGS:** PBOR, ML, UV  
**To:** BAMAKO STATE  
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